

**Board of Supervisors of Elections**  
**Minutes | December 9, 2020 | Virtual Meeting**

Marc Mitchell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Marc Mitchell, President

Josh Russin, Board Member

Shuan Butcher, Board Member

Saundra Nickols, City Attorney

Phyllis Hane, Legislative Clerk

Stuart Harvey, Frederick County Elections Director

1. On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Butcher the Board approved 3-0 the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Harvey addressed the Board concerning the recent presidential election and the upcoming 2021 municipal election. He noted voter registration data within the City has shifted so that unaffiliated and other parties now make up a greater percentage of voters than do Republicans and encouraged the Board to consider potential impact on the City's current partisan primary process. He suggested two questions for consideration:

- 1) should there be a primary and
- 2) if there is a primary, should it be open to all voters?

Mr. Harvey also addressed the concept of districts within the City, noting four of the six current elected officials reside in one precinct, leaving other jurisdictions potentially underrepresented. He proposed the City consider a combination of district and at-large representation. He stated district elections may encourage more residents to run for office.

There was discussion of these issues; however, Board members largely felt revisions of this type would have to be considered for future elections as there is not sufficient time to enact them prior to the January 4, 2021 opening of candidate filings for the upcoming elections.

The Board discussed options and procedures concerning mail-in voting as well as early and election day voting. Mr. Harvey shared that expanded mail-in voting has led to a significant increase in voter turnout both in the recent presidential election and municipal elections in Middletown and Brunswick. He stated 74% of mail-in ballots in the recent presidential election being returned via drop box and indicated those boxes may be available for lease from the state. His recommendation is for a mail-in election with at least one in-person location, possibly at the William Talley Recreation Center. He also noted the Board should consider making a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen concerning when to begin the canvassing of mail-in ballots.

Next steps:

- Mr. Harvey and Ms. Hane will consider potential locations for drop boxes for mail-in votes.
  - Mr. Mitchell will prepare a bullet list of proposed election procedures
  - The Board will reconvene on January 5 to finalize recommendations to the Board of Aldermen and prepare for a January 27 workshop presentation.
2. The Board briefly discussed the impact of the changes in the number of unaffiliated registered voters. Mr. Mitchell shared his preference for an open primary. This will be an item to be considered for a possible recommendation to the Board of Aldermen for this or future elections.
3. There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Hane  
Legislative Clerk